

process (S9). Let us consider an example of selecting a "save" folder by double touches in a state of displaying the folder structure as shown in Fig. 10.

The name of the selected folder becomes blank as shown

5 in Fig. 11 and a character input window 126 is

displayed at the same time. The operator can enter an arbitrary folder name with the pen (S10), and the CPU 20 recognizes the trace written in the character input window 126 by a character recognition process and

10 registers it as a new folder name, thereby renewing the display (S11). Fig. 12 shows the display of the folder structure after the file name is changed to "trip".

In the following there will be explained a movement of the image, stored in the backup HDD 62, between the folders. In the thumbnail image display shown in Fig. 8, the operator presses the pen 72 to a thumbnail image to be moved, then moves the pen to another folder mark while maintaining the pressed state and lifts the pen 72 from the digitizer 42. The CPU 20 identifies thus selected and moved thumbnail image, then changes the folder information of the corresponding image file in the backup HDD 62 to a folder of destination and reversal displays such folder of destination as shown in Fig. 13. In this manner the
25 desired image can be moved to another folder by a simple operation. Such file moving operation under the GUI (graphical user interface) is already known in the

field of computer and other information processing apparatus.

In the following there will be explained a data backup operation of the cradle 50. When the operator displays the cradle operation menu image (Fig. 6) and selects the "data backup" menu 112 with the pen 72 (S2), the CPU 20 prepares a folder in the backup HDD 62 of the cradle 50, searches a newly taken image (S12) within the image data in the flash memory 34 (S12), and moves (backup) the image data to such new folder (S13). Having received the image data, the cradle 50 skips the image data to a size matching the display dot number of the LCD display device 22 by the image changing circuit 66, and converts the gradation levels according to the number of gradation levels of the LCD display device 22, thereby reducing the data amount of the image (S14). Thus, while the image data, taken with the image pickup element of two million pixels, have a data amount of about 700 kB after JPEG compression, the image data matching the VGA display size of 640 × 480 pixels have a data amount reduced to about 1/20 or 35 kB. The image data can be further reduced also by decreasing the number of gradation levels. After such conversion, the converted image data are copied in the flash memory 34 (S15), and history information is added to the image data backed up in the backup HDD 62 (S16).

The folder automatically prepared by such

backup process may be subjected to the process of folder name change or image movement explained in the foregoing, in case it is desired to change the folder name or the storage location.

5 Instead of the input by the pen 72 and the digitizer 42, there may naturally be employed a pointing device of a similar function. Fig. 14 is a perspective view of an embodiment provided with a cursor moving key, while Fig. 15 is a perspective seen
10 from another direction, and Fig. 16 is a schematic block diagram showing the configuration, wherein components same as those in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 are represented by like numbers.

 Referring to Figs. 14 and 15, there are shown a
15 cursor key switch for designating the cursor movement, a set switch 132 for instructing determination in the mode setting, image selection etc., and a mode switch 134 for calling functions such as editing and tool. The key switches 130, 132, 134 can be used to realize
20 an operation environment same as that realized with the pen 72 and the digitizer 42. In Fig. 7, there is shown a key input device 136 for controlling the cursor key switch 130, the set switch 132 and the mode switch 134.

 There may be transferred, to the image pickup
25 apparatus, not only the reduction image of the image stored in the cradle but also the directory structure in the backup HDD 62.